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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/458,319	12/10/1999	AIDAN JAMES SMYTH	DIVA-043	8719

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EXAMINER

RAMAN, USHA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2616

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/458,319

Applicant(s)

SMYTH ET AL.

Examiner

Usha Raman

Art Unit

2611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2004.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-21 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-21 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED OFFICE ACTION**

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8-21, filed April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004, have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:  
  
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
3. Claims 8-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Day et al. (US Pat. 5,996,015) in view of DeMoney (US Pat. 6,065,050) and Katinsky et al. (US Pat. 6,452,609).

In regards to claims 8 and 16, Day discloses an information distribution system comprising content provider equipment communicating information streams to a subscriber equipment including content requested by the subscriber. Note summary in column 2, lines 28-52, column 3, lines 15-67, and column 4, lines 1-23 of Day. The subscriber equipment initiates a session with the application server 209 (a "session manager"), and this session is used to control the playback of content streams. Note column 5, lines 40-58. Furthermore, a play list of one or more content stream (assets) to be presented to the subscriber equipment is maintained. A file system 215 (server) stores the content streams and the controller contacts the data pump to retrieve the content

for streaming the content to subscriber equipment. Day further discloses that the application server also includes additional information relating to the available content streams (assets). The play list further identifies the "attributes" information (such as play-rate) as well as additional information associated with each of the content stream that allows the user to view or change the attribute information associated with the content stream. Note column 4, lines 8-22. Day teaches controlling the playback of a content stream using VCR style functions, however does not associating a "fast forward" and reverse stream with the content streams or modifying the play list in response to play list modification commands from a subscriber equipment.

DeMoney teaches maintaining normal play stream with a look up table for associating the trick play stream (such as fast forward and fast reverse streams) with the content stream. When a user changes the playback rates (i.e. change of attribute) of the content stream using VCR type functions, the media server switches the respective trick play stream associated with the command, based on the offset from the look up table. Note column 4, lines 59-67 and column 5, lines 1-60 of DeMoney.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Day in view of DeMoney's teachings by maintaining a look up table associating trick play streams with the content streams as an "additional information" relating to the content stream for providing

trick play functionality by indexing, in order to reduce processing requirement of the video server.

The modified system of Day in view of DeMoney lacks modifying the play list in response to play list modification commands sent from subscriber equipment.

Katinsky teaches a user-friendly media player interface that initiates and manages a session with content provider (i.e. "session manager") by creating and maintaining a sequencer (play list) with content streams to be played at the subscriber equipment, where the media player further allows the user to modify the play list. Note column 3, lines 43-54 and column 4, lines 10-18 of Katinsky. Using the media player interface, the subscriber can modify the play list by adding or deleting content streams as well as skip forward and backward to a content stream to be played. Note column 6, lines 19-26 and column 2, lines 55-57 in Katinsky.

It would have been obvious to further modify the system of Day in view of DeMoney with Katinsky's teachings by providing a play-list modification capabilities of Katinsky in order to allow the user to dynamically modify or change the sequence of media content streams to be played.

In regards to claims 9 and 17, the modified system of Day in view of DeMoney and Katinsky provides modification commands such as fast forward, fast reverse as well as skip forward and skip backwards commands (see column 6, lines 19-26 in Katinsky).

In regards to claims 10 and 18, the modified system of Day in view of DeMoney and Katinsky provides a session manager with "add" and "delete" functionalities that allow media objects to be added or removed from the play list. Note column 2, lines 55-57.

In regards to claim 11, the modified system of Day in view of DeMoney and Katinsky provides a session manager with skip forward and skip backward functionalities to skip to next or previous clip in the play-list. Note figure 7, reference numbers (106) and (107) and description in column 6, lines 19-26 of Katinsky.

In regards to claims 12 and 19, the modified system of Day in view of DeMoney and Katinsky provides a session manager with trick play functionalities that allow a fast reverse and fast forwards stream to be associated with the content stream in response to fast forward and fast reverse commands. Note column 5, lines 25-60 of DeMoney.

In regards to claims 13 and 20, Day discloses that at a predetermined point (threshold level) prior to the end of the current data stream, an initialization process begins for the next video segment on the play list, to prepare the next data stream to be seamlessly concatenated to the end of the current data stream. Note column 6, lines 31-64 of Day. Therefore the modified system of Day in view of DeMoney and Katinsky has "termination notification" means that is communicated to the server when the current data stream reaches the predetermined point (the threshold level).

In regards to claims 14 and 21, upon reaching the predetermined point prior to the end of the current data stream, the session manager indicates to the server controller the next content stream to be provided to the subscriber equipment.

In regards to claim 15, Day shows that the multimedia files are striped across disks of a plurality of storage servers. Note column 3, lines 15-20, lines 39-67, and column 4, lines 23-30. The data pump acts as the "transport processor", where under the control of the server controller, delivers the media assets to the subscriber equipment.

#### ***Conclusion***

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will


the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Usha Raman whose telephone number is (703) 305-0376. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached on (703) 305-4380. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-5359.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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07-30-04

  
VIVEK SRIVASTAVA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER